



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Dear Healthcare Colleague:

**Virginia will participate Saturday, October 27, 2018 in the sixteenth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.** Sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), this collaborative effort between state and local law enforcement agencies provides residents with an opportunity to dispose of potentially dangerous controlled substances from their medicine cabinets in an environmentally safe manner.

*Healthcare practitioners are encouraged to advise patients about this service and to remind them it is free and anonymous with no questions asked.* Collection activities will take place from **10:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m.** at sites coordinated with law enforcement agencies throughout Virginia. Here is the [DEA website](http://www.dea.gov) for additional information as well as where you can enter your zip code to find a local collection site.

According to the DEA, some 4,823,251 pounds (or 2,411 tons) of drugs were collected nationwide from 2010-2014. Last year, Virginia collected over 25,000 pounds of prescription drugs from over 167 collection sites statewide.

National data cites prescription drug abuse as the fastest growing drug problem in the U.S. This is reflected in unprecedented numbers of accidental poisonings and overdoses. Many people are unaware that prescription drugs are susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse and are easily obtained from home medicine cabinets for improper use. Flushing this medication down the toilet presents public safety and public health concerns, such as entering the drinking water supply. Your support of Drug Take-Back Day is an important example to set.

Healthcare practitioners can directly impact prescription drug abuse by educating patients regarding the proper disposal of medications. Please consider sharing this opportunity to properly dispose of unwanted drugs.

For more information please contact Ralph Orr, Director of the Virginia Prescription Monitoring Program at [804-367-4566](tel:804-367-4566), or by email at [pmp@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:pmp@dhp.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,

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